

REMARKS

The subject application is a Rule 1.53(b) of U.S. Serial No. 10/102,464, filed March 20, 2002. A Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due was issued on August 21, 2003 in connection with U.S. Serial No. 10/102,464, and the issue fee was submitted on November 19, 2003. As a patent has not yet issued from U.S. Serial No. 10/102,464, U.S. Serial No. 10/102,464 is pending today and this application is copending therewith for the purposes of 35 U.S.C. §120.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-25, without prejudice, and added new claims 26-50. Accordingly, claims 26-50 are now pending in the subject application and presented for examination.

Applicants maintain that this Preliminary Amendment does not introduce new matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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